

**Public Safety Commission**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**December 16, 2013**  
**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM, MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPT.**  
**-----Minutes-----**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Serra called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Hope Kasper  
Commissioner Deborah Kleckowski  
Commissioner Sebastian Giuliano  
Commissioner Thomas Serra

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chairman Rob Santangelo

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chief Gary Ouellette  
Deputy Chief Robert Kronenberger

**STAFF ABSENT**

None

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Members of the public

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Serra asked for approval of the minutes from September 16, 2013. Motion was moved by Commissioner Kasper and seconded by Commissioner Kleckowski. All were in favor.

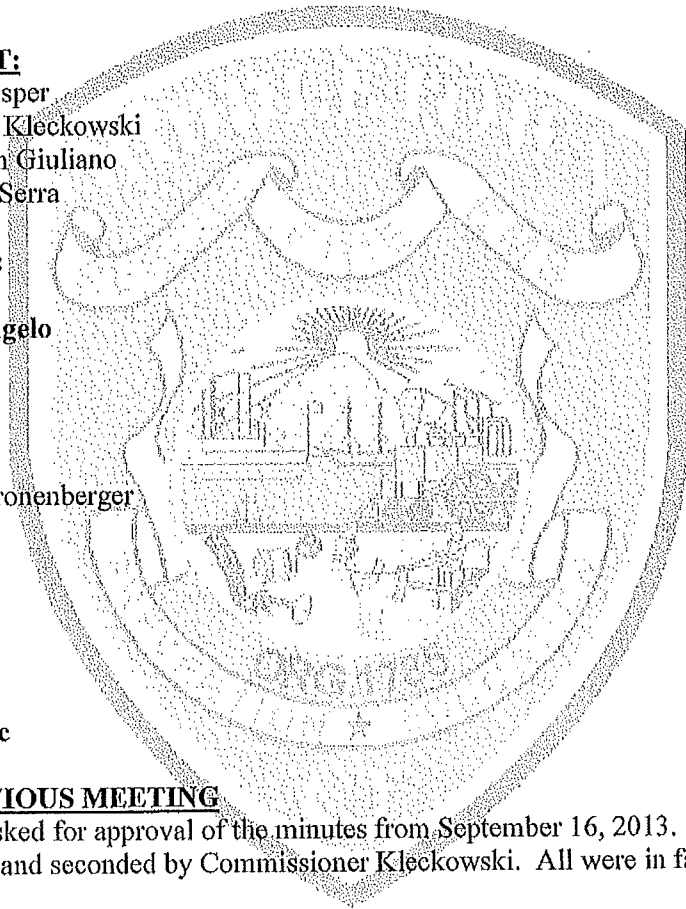
4. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Five correspondence letters as follows:

- a. Letter from South Fire District with regards to the 9/11 Memorial – MFD helped & participated
- b. Letter from South Fire District with regards to the funeral of Firefighter Michael Osiecki – MFD covered so personnel could attend wake and funeral
- c. Letter from City of Meriden with regards to mutual aid for a fire on November 13, 2013
- d. Letter from South Meriden Volunteer Fire Department with regards to the smoke trailer that was sent over for a program at their schools



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- e. Letter from MARC program with regards to the Tip-A-Firefighter held on October 11, 2013

6. **MONTHLY REPORT**

Call Comparison:

Call comparison passed over as there was three months worth – basically in same ballpark

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Old Tower 1 - Few departments throughout the country interested – issues include height of the truck, looking for a water tank and a pump on the ladder truck which ours only carries ladders, and the color yellow. Looking to make plans to store out of the elements to avoid deterioration. No offers have been made to purchase.
- Mile Lane Property – Correction in Governor's budget for 9.5 million for the property specifically – another step closer to having funding to start with architectural drawings and fire school.
- Public Safety Dock – all permits have been approved and waiting for work to start (spring)

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Thermal cameras
  - a. Project has been completed – Council voted in favor. Purchase orders have been opened, Locip funds used. Awaiting receipt of new cameras.
- Fitness Program for Firefighters
  - a. Firefighters were in attendance at Public Safety meeting that have been certified as fitness instructors – four just recently certified at class in Providence.
  - b. Union body voted in support of the fitness program.
  - c. Letters from Risk Manager and Mayor were reviewed that support the Fitness program
  - d. Firefighters presented as follows:
    - i. Firefighter Sal Cretella – presented statistics which included that the Middletown Fire Department has suffered two line of duty deaths due to cardiac arrest. Program is called the Wellness-Fitness Initiative with a groundbreaking Firefighter Peer Fitness Trainer. This is an intensive 40 hour training class that certifies firefighters as ACE Personal Trainers. It was stated that health and wellness should be a top priority in the fire service. In one study it was found that most fire agencies focus more on the maintenance of the apparatus but never repair the firefighters when injured. It was also stated that the reduction of on the job injuries and major illness have been reduced by up to 50% by departments who implement this program. Within the past three years there has been an increase of physical fitness and awareness in the firefighters of the Middletown Fire Department and are looking to take advantage of this increased interest.
    - ii. Firefighter Pat Ehman – presented facts about the job done as firefighters such as crawling down a hallway in gear, high heat, smoke, hoses are heavy, climbing ladders carrying saws, etc., involved in stressful, physical situations.
      - a. Peer Fitness Trainer involves: assessment, design a program based off of individual goals, implementation, and documenting the progress of the individual.

- iii. Firefighter Dave Albert -- presented a quote from Total Fitness Equipment of South Windsor for the equipment that was felt was needed and as was recommended by IFF Peer Fitness to get the gym started.
  - e. Salvation Army donated space for the gym. It was recommended that it be located at Mile Lane for the long term.
    - i. Motion was made to move forward by Commissioner Serra - Commission Kleckowski seconded. Funding was discussed to be as an appropriation out of the fund balance.
    - ii. The firefighters were commended for their training and the administration for sending them to the training as well as trying to get the less active firefighters active and make their safety second to none. Commissioner Kasper commended on how well spoken the firefighters were in their presentation.
    - iii. Security was discussed and it was stated that keys will be issued and only used by Middletown Fire.
    - iv. Commissioner Serra made amendment for the appropriation to be up to \$25,000. All voted in favor.
- New Engine
  - a. Final meeting to be held Thursday to finalize everything. Getting ready to order the new engine -- should take about a year to build.

9. **Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee**

- *Telecommunications Committee still concerned about radio communications with Middletown High School. Situation needs to be rectified. Update given by Deputy Chief Rob Kronenberger stating that they met with school safety meeting last week and they have no objections to looking at the system. In December police and fire along with Utility Communications will be doing radio checks within the building to find the limitations of the system and where to go from there.*

10. **OTHER MATTERS**

- It was noted that this will be Chief Ouellette's last meeting -- congratulations were given to Chief Ouellette on his retirement after his many years of fine service to the City of Middletown. Chief Ouellette thanked the commission for their support of the fire department and public safety.

11. **Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Serra asked for the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kleckowski moved the motion and all voted in favour. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Ruffino  
Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2014**